

Many Men of Many Minds

Rear Admiral M. I. Smirnoff.—Admiral Kolchak was a patriot, a man of great sincerity and honesty. He possessed a strong character and deep thoughtfulness. The admiral did not belong to any of the political parties, and was not a partisan of the old régime, blaming it for neglecting to take proper measures for the development of popular education and for stifling political thought in Russia.

Bertrand Russell.—Bolshevism is internally aristocratic and externally militant. The Communists have all the good and bad traits of an aristocracy which is young and vital. They are courageous, energetic, capable of command, always ready to serve the state; on the other hand, they are dictatorial, lacking in ordinary consideration for the plebs, such as their servants, whom they overwork, or the people in the streets, whose lives they endanger by extraordinarily reckless motoring. They are practically the sole possessors of power, and they enjoy innumerable advantages in consequence.

Warren G. Harding.—We Republicans of the Senate when we saw the structure of a world super-government taking visionary form...halted the barter of independent American eminence and influence....We do not mean to shun a single responsibility of this republic. We were resolved then, even as we are today, and will be tomorrow, to preserve this free and independent republic. Let those now responsible, or seeking responsibility, propose the surrender, whether with interpretations, apologies, or reluctant reservations—from which our rights are to be omitted. We welcome the referendum to the American people on the preservation of America.

Dr. William T. Hornaday.—Civilization is against the eagle. It is robbing it of its lawful prey, and giving it nothing in return. Far too much has this bird of our national history been flouted and neglected. We must honor it more, protect it better, or see it wholly disappear from the land of our fathers.

Professor David H. Bauslin, D. D., dean, Hamma Divinity School.—The vast public ignorance of Christian doctrine and history is one of the most deplorable and ominous dangers among us. In consequence largely of our sociological interest, many people have fallen into a mere humanistic and naturalistic way of estimating our Lord and Saviour. Much of religion in some circles among us has been smitten with a barren rationalism or has degenerated into a one-sided mysticism. If the situation we are confronting makes doctrinal preaching more difficult, possibly, than at any time since the Reformation, it renders it all the more necessary. It is an absolute mental and spiritual necessity if men are to be led out of the mists of religious uncertainty and ambiguity.

Charles Aubrey Eaton, associate editor, *Leslie's*.—The two platforms are alike in that they are too long, lack conciseness, and are the result of compromise. There is a good deal of "you're another" camouflage in both, with some straddling and sidestepping.

Senator Robert M. LaFollette.—The great trusts which control the markets for agricultural products fix prices so low to the farmer as to allow him at best only a hard-earned existence while the prices of the same products to the consumer are so high as to compel him to limit his purchases to the barest necessities. Thus the producer and consumer are robbed and commerce and industry are paralyzed.

David Lloyd George, premier, Great Britain.—If ever a nation in history has gone war mad, that nation is Poland.

Sydney Greenbie.—The open shop in international finance is now a thing of the past; at least so far as China goes. On May 11, exactly eighteen months after the signing of the armistice, Japan formally declared her willingness to enter the new Consortium. For the past year Great Britain, France and America have been ready to act in concert in the matter of loans to China, but Japan insisted on certain reservations which the others were not ready to grant. Japan claims that the powers yielded and the powers claim that Japan gave way. But to us it is evident that no nation today is sufficiently powerful and self-contained to be able to stand apart from the rest of them. The closed shop in international finance has come to stay. And that union of world bankers is to be known as the Consortium.

Emir Feisal, Arab ruler.—Only one great nation can settle the problems of the Near East without bloodshed. That is America. If the United States would send a mission to the Near East to act as arbitrators we would have confidence in its disinterestedness and abide by its decisions. War would be averted. Otherwise there will be bloodshed from the Black Sea to Egypt, and the Near East will witness the most terrible period in its history.

Gilbert K. Chesterton.—Free verse is no more a new form of poetry than sleeping in a ditch is a new form of architecture.

H. L. Mencken.—Life buzzes and coruscates in Manhattan Island, but the play of ideas is not there. The New York spirit, for all the gaudy pretentiousness of the town, is a spirit of timidity, of regularity, of safe mediocrity. The typical New Yorker, whether artist or mere trader, feels the heavy

hand of the capitalistic bourgeoisie upon him at all times. He is always looking over his shoulder furtively, in fear that he may have done something that is not approved and so brought down upon himself some inexplicable penalty. Here are the great rewards, but here also are the inviolable taboos. The individual, facing that relentless regimentation, is afraid to be himself. Above all, he is afraid to be an American. The town is shoddily cosmopolitan, second-rate European, extraordinarily cringing, a sort of international Jenkins.

John W. Kean.—The Lafayette Station, erected by the United States Navy Department, near Bordeaux, France, and sold to the French Government after the war, will be practically twice as powerful as any radio station now in existence. It will be capable of transmitting messages approximately 12,500 miles, or half way around the world. The present plan is for the Lafayette Station to transmit at the rate of 50 words a minute, or 72,000 words a day.

French Strother.—The idea seems to be prevalent in the United States that the appalling misery and disorganization of industry in mid-eastern Europe is no concern of ours, except insofar as it appeals to our instincts of charity. Starvation in Austria, collapse of transportation in Hungary, the death of productive industry in Germany—these things, according to this view, are merely the misfortunes of those peoples—the vengeance of poetic justice upon them for their share in an unholy war.

Irving T. Bush.—We do not get large reforms in the government until the pocketbooks of all the citizens are touched.

Hawthorne Daniel.—Twenty years ago golf players were as rare as automobiles. Now they are as common. All over the country, links are scattered—club links, public links, and private links—and every year the number grows. It has grown to the proportion of a national institution. Nor is it merely an institution. When hundreds of thousands of business and professional men, and men in every other walk of life, see fit to drop their work for an afternoon or two (or three) a week in order to play golf, it seems probable that the game is not entirely disconnected from economics. Golf is making its great strides in popularity because it is a good game that serves as an excellent health preservative.

Mrs. Katharine Fullerton Gerould.—It is a comfort, in these days when all churches are taking the easy way of latitudinarianism, to find somebody that stands stiff-necked against the prevailing wind: declaring that it is more important that religion should be right than that it should be universal.

Frank H. Simonds.—Britain seems to have decided to back the Greek in the Near East, just as Russia backed the Serbian, Germany the Bulgarian, and exactly as the British backed the Turk in the last century. To back someone was necessary because it was out of the question for the British, with their troubles in Ireland, Egypt and India and the Arab problem in Mesopotamia and Palestine, to think of undertaking a Turkish conquest.

Sir Thomas Lipton.—The best boat won. We all did our best—skipper, designer and crew—and we have been beaten fairly and squarely. I have no excuses to offer. Resolute is the better boat.

Dr. A. E. Childs.—Character is getting to be old-fashioned, with efficiency absorbing the attention of every one. The two combined stand for all that is best in the world. Efficiency by itself becomes a damnable thing because it ceases to be human.

Tenney L. Davis.—The average citizen encountering an unexpected state of affairs, says of it, "Well, I'll be damned if it isn't!" When he offers to be cheerfully damned if it isn't, he is keeping well within the margin of safety. The word "damn" has become bad usage. The majority of the people, the larger part of the time, try to find for their use in giving vigor and emphasis to their expression some word which has not thus become an emblem of bad taste.

Frank O. Lowden.—Successful self-government in even the smallest political unit is the only guaranty of successful self-government in a great country such as ours. There are many evidences that this type of government is breaking down in America. Whenever a town permits the due and orderly processes of government to be interrupted by a mob, that town is no longer an asset, but becomes a liability of the republic. For, multiply that town by a sufficient number and you have a situation in which only the army can rule. And no self-governing country was ever yet ruled successfully by force of arms.

Archibald Hurd.—If naval power is to be judged by the number of most efficient capital ships possessed by any country, then within three, or at most four, years the American fleet will have outdistanced the British fleet.

Dr. Frank O. Beck.—If St. Paul were alive today he would be an editor of a newspaper. The newspapers are to be congratulated on the good they do. They are the champions of the poor. They help the weak. They expose the criminal. We couldn't do without them.

Emil Lederer, professor of economics, Heidelberg.—Germany has been advised by the whole world to stop inflation, and were this possible and steps were not taken to this end business life would not deserve any aid. For this inflation—the issue of notes, the granting of additional credits to industrial enterprises and to the government—is only an expression of the fact that Germany consumes more than she is able to produce. In Germany the average individual spends more than he earns. The value of what he consumes is larger than the value of his productive work. This is only possible if he receives purchasing power without countervalue or on credit. Such newly created purchasing power is inflation.

Benjamin N. Duke.—I have never used tobacco in any form in my life and have never had any desire to do so, although I have been connected with the cultivation and manufacture of the weed since I was a boy.

Senator Arthur Capper.—Warehouses are full of wool, full of hides, coffee, sugar, flour. A billion dollars' worth of food is impounded in Chicago's storage houses alone. These supplies are doled out as sparingly as possible to maintain "shortages" and keep up prices; also, in many instances, cars are lacking to transport goods from places where they are plentiful to other points where they are scarce and in great demand.

General Eric von Ludendorff.—Bolshevism is a monster that must advance to exist. It is advancing now and is crushing everything between the midland sea and the Atlantic Ocean. We must get used to regarding propaganda as a combative resource of the first rank. It rallies the proletariat and puts sensible citizens to sleep. The bourgeois world will soon have a rude awakening from its half-awake lethargy to face the first guns of battle.

Prince Casimir Lubomirski, minister from Poland to United States.—Because the Polish peasant has fought for his home, to free his countrymen, to prevent the horrors of war from being carried to his fireside again, to liberate and to give the right of self-determination to his neighbors, I have been called the diplomatic representative of a nation of invading militarists forcing a war upon a reluctant enemy on soil described as "indubitably Russian," although that soil never knew Russian oppression until 1772. Poland knows Russia through bitter experience. That is why the Polish peasant in former Russian Poland cannot read nor write.